

claim sets. For example, the claims all share a substantial overlap in the limitations associated with the composite gel aspect.

Proposed Alternate Grouping of Claims

The Office and Applicants have a mutual interest in efficient prosecution of applications and to reduce the number of continued and divisional applications. In the spirit of cooperation, Applicants propose the following alternate grouping of claims for consideration.

Group I, claims 1-26, drawn to a composite gel.

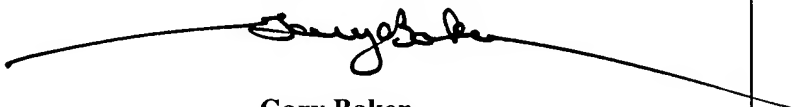
Group II, claims 27-66, drawn to methods of preparing and administering supplemental constituents in a composite gel.

Applicants note the bulk of common aspects between these methods claims. For example independent method claim 27 and method claim 61 both include aspects of method of providing a matrix suspension or a filler composition, preparing a rumen protected composite gel, wherein the composite gel is protective in from degradation in a rumen. This considerable commonality extends further on consideration of the associated dependent claims. Because the search and consideration of prior art would have substantial overlap between the Groups II and III of the Action, it would not be a severe burden to consider them together.

Applicants respectfully request the restriction of the present claims into proposed Group I and proposed Group II. Should the Office agree to the proposed alternate grouping, Applicants would elect prosecution of Group I

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Attachments:

- 1) A transmittal sheet; and,
- 2) A receipt indication postcard.